

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

SSC-01 GAC-01 MBFR-03 RSR-01 /110 W  
----- 098608

R 031830 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3576

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA KEFLAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0461

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV IC

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF VALDIMARSSON MAY BE DELAYED

REF: REYKJAVIK 443

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. MEETING OF ORGANIZATION OF LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS ( OLL) ALTHING GROUP MAY 2 FAILED TO DECIDE ON REPLACEMENT OF VALDIMARSSON IN GOI CABINET. DECISION WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE AND POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT VALDIMARSSON WILL BE ASKED TO REMAIN. END SUMMARY

2. OLL ALTHING GROUP MET AS REQUESTED BY VALDIMARSSON MAY 2 TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF HIS REPLACEMENT IN CABINET. NO DECISION WAS REACHED AND ANOTHER MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD " SOON". ICELANDIC FEDERATION OF LABOR CHAIRMAN BJORN JONSSON WAS INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEWED AFTER MEETING AND SAID REPLACEMENT COULD NOT BE DECIDED UPON IN A MATTER OF DAYS. HE SAID " WE WILL TAKE ALL THE TIME NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER".

3. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL RESIGNATION POSES A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR OLL DUE TO SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS. PARTY ALSO FACED WITH PROBLEM OF AGREEING ON POSITION REGARDING VALDIMARSSON PROPOSAL THAT GOI SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO HAGUE COURT TO ARGUE FISHERIES LIMITS DISPUTE. PARTY OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT TO SELECT SOMEONE WHO WOULD REPUDIATE VALDIMARSSON POSITION OUTRIGHT. HOWEVER, SELECTION OF SOMEONE LESS PRESTIGIOUS PERSONALLY THAN VALDIMARSSON TO MAINTAIN HIS STAND WOULD PLACE PARTY EVEN MORE FIRMLY AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT.

4. VALDIMARSSON'S RESIGNATION WILL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL SUCCESSOR IS CHOSEN. SEVERAL EMBASSY POLITICAL SOURCES TEND TO BELIEVE THAT VALDIMARSSON DID NOT INTEND RESIGNATION TO BE ACCEPTED. HE MAY HAVE ADVANCED IT IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN HIS HAND OVER PARTY AND RECEIVE A RENEWED MANDATE. THE ONLY THING CERTAIN AT THIS MOMENT IS THAT OLL WILL NOT RUSH DECISION.  
IRVING

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** PGOV, IC  
**To:** BONN  
COPENHAGEN  
EUR  
HELSINKI  
LONDON  
NATO  
OSLO

SECSTATE WASHDC  
STOCKHOLM

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